

The **Call Letter**

October, 2022
Volume 48 #10

Memories from the September 10 Swap Meet



Victrola radio phonograph - Beautiful console with a
Victrola phonograph, a Radiola 18 receiver, and a
speaker (Photo by Dan Howard)

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

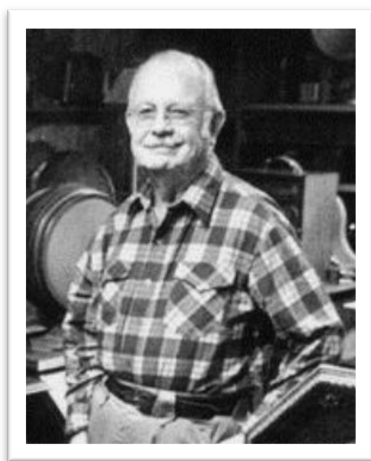
Post Office Box 82379 Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of “Vintage Radio” and wireless equipment. Membership is open to all. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, (\$20 if only an electronic News Letter is requested) due on January 1st of each year.

The Call Letter has been in print since 1974 and is a publication that informs members of the society’s business and that supports the hobby of collecting, restoring and preserving vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of most months at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all public meetings and functions. Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, restoration classes, radio shows, and radio sales which are announced in the Call Letter and held in and around the Pacific Northwest.

With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1998. A generous bequest from Jim’s estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.



Society Officers

President Pat Kagi (360 909-7009)

Vice President Franklin Ouchida

Treasurer Ed Tompkins (360 635-2489)

Recording Secretary Dan Howard

Board member Mike McCrow (503) 730-4639

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Radio Repair Mentors

These are willing to mentor small groups in Radio Restoration:

Blake Dietze	360 944-7172 Vancouver
Ed Tompkins	360 635-2489 Vancouver

President’s Message

By Pat Kagi, President

It is October already. Weather is colder, so stay indoors and finish your radio restoration project, which is due in November.

It was a great time at the September swap meet in Aurora and it was good to see Mel Sutton and Bob Deuel at this event.

October is the time to plan the Christmas party. These events don’t happen by themselves and require resources to “come true.” So please volunteer to help out this year.

Many people want to come to the club meetings, but lack transportation. The club also has a laptop available for a member who wants to attend meetings and Zoom on line. Please contact me directly at (360) 909-7009 so that we can see about getting you a ride to the meeting or setting you up to attend online.

Vice President Notes

By Franklin Ouchida

Thanks to all who help with the Annual Swap Meet. It's always a fun time with lots of great buys.

Please remember to Donate or pay your dues on line with PayPal at NWVRS.ORG@gmail.com please use Friends and Family option.

Remember that I would also like to update our roster with the year you joined the NWVRS. Please verify that it's correct at the meeting or by email.

Our Monthly feature for October is "0" zero

We're looking to share your passion - Sign up to do a Tech Talk at a meeting, in person or on Zoom. Speaking of Zoom, join us every Wednesday at 7:00 pm (pacific time) for WRNZ (Wednesday Radio Nights on Zoom) just as close as your computer or phone. Everyone is invited to chat about radios.

October Tech Talk: Daniel Wells will tell us about reproducing radio backs : Dan Howard may tell about the 1924 Magnavox TRF50

Help make The 50th Anniversary of NWVRS special! We need your opinion on this momentous anniversary. Please join the 50th anniversary committee.

Swap Shop **WANTED:**

WANTED - Radios made in Oregon. I do have some to trade. Thanks in advance. Dick Howard (503) 775-6697 dhoward27@comcast.net

WANTED -Crosley model 52 TD, TE or TF. A.A.5 tube bakelite or wood cabinet. Bob Meyers, ka7umr@dd951.us, or 208 329 4150

WANTED - 2 brown knobs for a Westinghouse H126 "Refrigerator Radio" - a Toshiba 7TP30 in black. (Cosmetically clean)
Searching for Packard Bell 5R1 any Parts, Part Sets and/

Or Displayable Sets in Pink, Yellow and Green.

Looking for a Arborcone Speaker for my Arborphone 26
Franklin Ouchida crazykeychains@gmail.com 971-407-8108

This memory was written for the Call Letter in 1989 and was "looking back" even then. Times haven't changed- do you have something on a "long-term wish list" that you've always wanted to find? Tell me about it. It could come true. (editor)

Remember When

Reminiscence by Charter Member Dick Howard

When we have visitors, two questions are always asked - the first, "How much are these things worth?" -- sets my teeth on edge and is tactfully ignored, but the second, "Where did you ever find all these radios?" always evokes pleasant memories and many chuckles.

One that comes to mind goes back to my school days when I haunted the old Hyland and Cameron book stores on Fourth Avenue in downtown Portland. Housed in broken-down buildings, they gave way to "progress" and a thirty-story office building twenty or more years ago. In the "good-ol'-days", you could find lots of red-



Photo courtesy of Phil's Old Radios

covered QSTs for a dime or so at Hyland's and maybe a nickel at Cameron's, just right for a school boy's budget.

But what caught by eye was on the back cover of a catalog out of Allied Radio in Chicago. At first glance it looked like a classic Hallicrafter SX-88 -- but it wasn't. Instead it had a picture tube - of course it was Halli's little gem -- a 7" push- button TV set that even had channel 1. Where would a fourteen year old find the money - or the set, for that matter? And what do you do with a Television in a town like Portland? Except for KRSC on Channel 5 in Seattle, the nearest station was 700 miles away!!

Thirty years later I ran into my friend Colin who had just returned from a convention in Los Angeles. "Look what I brought back," says he. Of course it was that Hallicrafters TV. Thirty years had not dimmed my interest. "I held the stupid thing on my lap all the way home and I'm not sure why," Colin complained.



"Do you want to get rid of it?" I hoped. He had me and he knew it.

'Well ... I would consider a trade," he countered. "You see there is this receiver I've always wanted ... an RME 4350 ... I wanted it clear back when I was a kid !" (Dejavou!)

"OK," I promised. "Somehow I'll find one." I'd never seen a 4350 but I had to have that TV set, so I had to have an RME4350. A year or two passed and then, as one of the NWVRS swap meets was winding down, a young guy named Bill wandered in and asked me if anyone in our club ever collected ham gear. He just happened to want to unload an old set from his uncle's attic. Need I continue? Money changed hands forthwith and that afternoon Bill arrived at my house.

That set was pristine!! The next day Colin brought over my Hallicrafters and lovingly carried off the RME. I've never seen another RME 4350 but I sure like that television!

The RME 4350 mentioned in the article was made by Radio Manufacturing Engineers Inc. RME was founded by Lou Burroughs and Al Kahn. By the 1930s the company had become known as Electro-Voice and RME was simply a small division of the parent company.

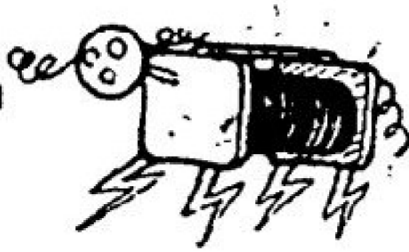
There is some interesting history at <https://electrovoice.com/>.



100 Years Ago

Contributed by Art Redman

Radio Bugs



From The archives of the Oregon Journal Aug 27, 1922

This week we have with us, as the prime radio bug, none other than Ralph Walker, the well-known factum factotum of the Hallock & Watson store.

Way back in the balmy days of 1912 Ralph began playing and tinkering with a crystal set. That was enough, for once on the stuff he has never since been able to be offen' it for any great length of time. Even when at Pacific University Ralph was the bane of his professors' existence. His reaction to lectures was mainly a faraway look and thoughts of some new wrinkle for an antenna or other piece of gear for a radio.

Economics meant nothing to him save how to get a set working with the least possible effort. He would tinker and putter around for such a length of time trying to find a shortcut that even then the economical side of the proposition was questionable.

When the war came along Ralph temporarily forgot radio and went into the service with the 318th engineers. He served with that outfit in France, where he learned a lot of French and well, ask, any doughboy what he learned [overseas]. Ralph didn't overlook any bets.

As soon as the German was sufficiently squelched Ralph came back to say "howdy" to Mrs. Liberty and then came back to his old stomping ground. Once more the radio [bug bit] him hard, and since that time he has kept up with the same in grand style.

Some five months ago he became a member of the Hallock & Watson staff and since that time radio fans have heard his cheery voice and breezy line of chatter many times through the "tar-cans." Every once in a while there is a Sunday radio concert at the Hallock & Watson plant. The enjoyment of these is enhanced by the fact that Ralph donates his services to the advance of science and for the edification of the thousands of fans in and about Portland.

When not working at the set Ralph can be found explaining to some befuddled fan just why the hook-up won't work when the ground is connected on to where the antenna lead should be or why a crystal detector simply won't mote when the clusive galena is stationed on the mantelpiece instead of being in the little copper cup. Then, too, Ralph often "shoots the breeze" with fans who have strange tales to tell as how station "Umpti-squat" come in like a ton of brick last Saturday night.

As the modern saying goes, Ralph is "all to the berries and is a rattling good follow." He is a radio bug and proud of it and woe be unto anyone who challenges him on that score.

[Also in the Journal of Aug 27, 1922 is this note:]

According to Joe Hallock, the citizens of Lebanon [Oregon] are alternately astounded and entertained by the radio set recently installed at the Kuhn theater. The set is used in conjunction with a loud speaker and may be heard for blocks around. The [Oregon] Journal news reports and baseball scores, Hallocks said, are a regular daily event.



The Lebanon Kuhn Theater, mentioned above, is standing in it's new (1937) building.

The Kuhn theater referred to in the 1922 Oregon Journal was the wood frame structure next door to the one shown here.

Memories from the 2022 PSARA SWAP MEET

Photos by Dan Howard



John Jenkins with the truck from the SPARC Museum (above)
Bill Weigel and Brian Toon with some of the “goods” (below)





Franklin Ouchida at the Shoreline meet. (below)



Tape Transmission

A [1939] History

From staff writers of the 1939 Radio Annual

In 1906 a young man by the name of McCarthy was experimenting in San Francisco with wireless phone. He was backed by Mr. Hale of Hale Bros. Department Store. Considerable publicity appeared in the San Francisco papers regarding a demonstration conducted between the Cliff House and Hale Bros.' Store. It was this publicity which aroused the interest of James A. Miller, who was a student at Palo Alto. As a result, he constructed the first radio station in Palo Alto in 1907 and later a larger one in 1908.

It is hard to conceive that at that date 99 per cent of the people were definitely antagonistic toward radio broadcasting for entertainment. It was accepted half-heartedly for ship messages but that was all.

McCarthy was killed in a street car accident in 1908, and by

Old Time Radio

Many of us who collect radios also collect or are fond of old radio shows from the 'golden age' of broadcasting. Most of us started using magnetic tape. (I started with magnetic wire.) The cultural spread of recording tape is attributed to Bing Crosby and his investment in Ampex, but this story goes much further back.

a strange coincidence his work was referred to the head of the Electrical Engineering Department of Stanford University, with whom James A. Miller had spent much time trying to put across his ideas regarding the great future possibilities of radio broadcasting. C. E. Elwell, one of James A. Miller's friends and associates, was hired to make an investigation of McCarthy's work and McCarthy's equipment finally came to Palo Alto. After one year, Mr. Elwell reported that McCarthy's equipment was not suitable and the work was discontinued. In the meantime, however, he heard of the work of Messrs. Poulson and

Pedersen in Denmark and made a trip to Denmark, where he made arrangements for their patents and equipment. This was the start of the Federal Telegraph Company in Palo Alto which is now [1939] the Mackey Radio.

Messrs. Poulsen and Pedersen had two methods of recording, one the photographic oscillograph and the other the magnetic recorder which they patented in 1898 and called the telegraphone.



Telegraphone courtesy of the Springfield Museum

First Transmission

In 1917 when the United States took over the German Radio Station at Sayville, Long Island, Miller was appointed consulting engineer for the rebuilding of the station. Then followed the 500,000 watt station at Annapolis, Maryland. Later, the United States Government contracted Miller for two years to serve as consulting engineer for the United States on the construction of the Lafayette Radio Station at Bordeaux, France. This station delivered 1,250,000 watts and is today the largest ever

constructed. It was here in 1919 that the first message was transmitted around the world, it being received by a French warship dispatched to a point exactly opposite Bordeaux, The long distance continuous record was also established at the same time by Mr. James A. Miller. It consisted of twenty-four hours continuous communication between Bordeaux, France, and San Francisco, California, without losing contact at any time.

By 1924 radio broadcasting for entertainment was well on its way, and on account of the original work of McCarthy, a wireless station was maintained by Hale Bros. Department Store in San Francisco and by 1924 was well known as Station KPO, 500 watts, Class B. A Class B station was the best and by order of the Federal Radio Commission could not use recorded music. The Class B rating was given on a basis of quality and therefore the quality could not be impaired by using records. At this time, however, James A. Miller arranged the first electrical transcription program on a Class B station by special permission, on KPO, due to great improvement in disc recording with special quality for radio reproduction.

However, the need for a better recording system was still apparent, so James A. Miller spent a year trying to perfect and adapt the magnetic wire telegraphone to radio broadcasting but found it unsatisfactory

Tape Transmission

Mr. Miller then went to Europe where in spite of the fact that most of the engineers gave an unfavorable report, he was able to convince Dr. Holst, head of the Philips Laboratorium, Eindhoven, Holland, of the merits of the tape system. Through this an arrangement was made with the Philips Company to assist with the development.

Next in line was the J. Walter Thompson Advertising Agency in London, who built a studio using the new equipment with complete success. For the first time in history it became possible to put programs on the air from a recording that was indistinguishable from the original. From here it sped to Norway,

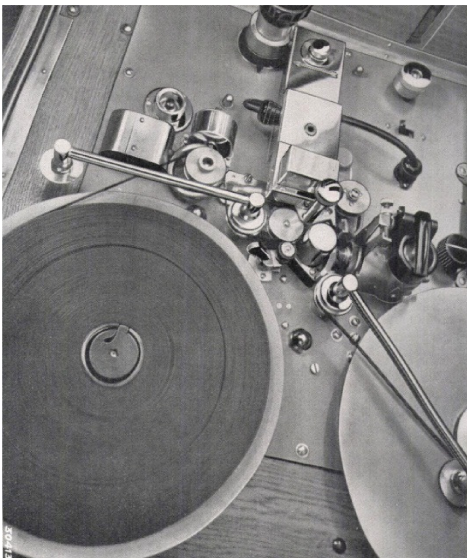
France, Switzerland and Australia, being known throughout Europe as the Philips-Miller system.

In the meantime, Mr. Miller returned to America to start operations in the American market. The doubters here have been numerous but the progress marches on and the converts increase. In Europe the converts started with Mengelberg, Huberman, Thibault, quickly followed by all the other leading artists

Conclusion

In America, the few artists who have heard Millertape transmission consider it superior to any other type of recording in quality. These include Leopold Stokowski, Lawrence Tibbett and

John Charles Thomas and there is no doubt that the time is short when the list of converts in America will be as long as that in Europe.



August 26, 1938
Radio station WQXR in New York City broadcasts a program using a tape recorder. The tape recorder used was the Phillips-Miller recording system, also known as Millertape, invented by James Arthur Miller. Detail photo of the Phillips-Miller Machine. (Phillips Technical Review, March 1939)

[In 1939] Radio stations from coast to coast are being equipped with the Miller Broadcasting System transmission apparatus and Miller Broadcasting System engineers are constantly traveling from station to station instructing the station's engineers in the proper operation of the Millertape transmission playing machines. Advertisers and agencies, and station managers are enthusiastic over the "quality" of Millertape transmission radio programs.

October , 2022



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

